

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ, МОЛОДІ ТА СПОРТУ  
УКРАЇНИ  
ПРИКАРПАТСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ  
ІМЕНІ ВАСИЛЯ СТЕФАНИКА  
ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ  
КАФЕДРА АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ**

**ДЕРЕВ'ЯНКО О.А.**

**КРАЇНОЗНАВСТВО ВЕЛИКОЇ БРИТАНІЇ**

*Плани семінарських занять*

**Івано-Франківськ  
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## Seminar 1

### GENERAL INFORMATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Geographical Position of the UK.
2. The Climate.
3. The Population.
4. Languages and Religion.
5. The Capital.
6. Rivers and Lakes.
7. Mountains.
8. Mineral Resources.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Outline the geographical position of the British Isles in the world.
2. Speak about the advantages and disadvantages of the geographical position of the British Isles.
3. Give an account of the importance of the surrounding seas to Great Britain.
4. Give a full account of the factors which determine the climate of Great Britain.
5. Why does the United Kingdom have a mild climate, even though it lies as far north as Labrador?
6. Describe the most important features of Britain's climate.
7. Describe the relief features of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.
8. Describe the major plains of lowland Britain.
9. Speak about the chief rivers and lakes of the UK.
10. Which are the most important British coalfields, in terms of present-day production?
11. Examine the importance of oil in modern British industry.
12. Comment on the most important iron-mining areas in Great Britain.
13. Which three groups can the mountains be divided into?
14. Why is the south of England often called the "Garden of England"?
15. When was it that the country got the name "Great Britain"? What is behind this name?
16. Say what you know about Ulster.

17. What is the official Church of England and how did it come into being?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 21-23; 49-50; 96-97; 111; 140-142; 149-150; 168-171; 174-175; 177-178; 193-194), 2 (pp. 5-36), 4 (pp. 25-42), 8 (pp. 10-43; 192-200), 9 (pp. 31-41), 10 (pp. 7-12), 12 (pp. 54-62).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

ALBANY Historical and poetic name given to the Scottish Highlands in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The origin of the word may be the same as that of ALBION.

ALBION A Roman name for Great Britain, rarely used after the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

ANGLICAN CHURCH Often called the church of England, it originated during the Roman occupation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. In England, the Church is organized into 2 ecclesiastical provinces, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York. The provinces are divided respectively into 29 and 14 bishoprics, or dioceses.

ARCHBISHOP Chief of the bishops. In the Church of England there are two archbishops, the Archbishop of Canterbury, called the Primate of all England, and the Archbishop of York, the Primate of England.

BAGPIPE A musical instrument with an unusual wailing sound, not unique to, but characteristic of Scotland.

BISHOP Christian ecclesiastic, a person consecrated for the spiritual government of an area, a diocese or a province.

BLIGHTY A popular slang term for the UK, mostly used during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

CHURCH IN WALES An independent Welsh religious body, a Protestant organization that became separate from the Church of England in 1920 and now controls Church affairs in Wales.

COUNTIES Administrative areas determined, counted, by population, used in the UK and the USA.

DOWNS Chalk hills in southeast England. The name comes from the Old English *dun* meaning *hill*.

FENS Level, low-lying lands in east England, west and south of the Wash – rectangular shallow bay of the North Sea in England between the counties of Norfolk and Lincoln.

GREATER LONDON A name for the wider area around and including London, defined differently by different authorities.

HOME COUNTIES A popular, ill-defined name for the administrative areas bordering London, sometimes including areas of Greater London, such as Middlesex.

LAKE DISTRICT Area of about 700 sq mi in Cumberland, Westmorland and North Lancashire, embracing the principal English lakes. In 1951 the Lake District was made a National Park.

LOCH NESS The Lake (Ness) most famous for possible sightings of a monster.

METROPOLITAN AREA An urban, built-up area used to define administrative areas and usually sub-divided into counties.

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF WALES The 22 administrative territories into which the country is divided and comprise 3 cities, 9 counties and 10 county boroughs.

PRESBYTERIAN A member of the Protestant Presbyterian Church, the largest religious group in Wales, Scotland and the USA.

THE SIX COUNTIES refers to the part of Ulster that is now defined as Northern Ireland.

WELSH MARCHES A popular name for the border country between England and Wales.

ULSTER The name of one of the four original provinces of Ireland, the others being Leinster, Munster, and Connaught. It comprised an area now defined by nine counties of the island. The name itself is derived from *ULAIÐ*, the ancient place name in the Irish language.

## **Seminar 2**

### **THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. The Rise of the British Empire.
2. The Decline of the British Empire.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What were the prerequisites of the rise of the British Empire?
2. What were the reasons for the decline of the British Empire?
3. How large was the British Empire at its height?
4. What do you know about Hong-Kong as Britain's former colony?
5. Say what you know about the "Muscovy Company".
6. Who were the most famous English seamen that caused trouble to Spanish ships in the Atlantic Ocean? Why did Elizabeth support these seamen?
7. What were the disadvantages of the Armada ships in comparison with the English ships? What was the result of the sea battle between the Armada and the English fleet?
8. What did Walter Raleigh bring from America?
9. What shameful trade did English colonists start in West Africa?
10. Why did Britain's government encourage British people to move to different parts of the world and start colonies there?
11. What was the purpose of the numerous "colonial wars" Britain was engaged in?
12. When did Ceylon become independent?
13. How many people in former British colonies became independent between 1945 and 1965?
14. What new organization was formed to help Britain keep international ties with its former colonies?

#### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

- 1 (pp. 35-37), 5 (pp. 156-176), 7 (pp. 172-173), 8 (pp. 68-73; 99-103), 9 (pp. 113-120), 12 (p. 71).

#### **D. GLOSSARY**

IRA The Irish Republican Army, the original body fighting for Ireland's independence.

THE IRISH REPUBLICAN BROTHERHOOD was a second Dublin secret society founded in 1858, seeking independence.

PILGRIM FATHERS Original 102 settlers of Plymouth, the first permanent colony in New England, North America, founded in 1620.

## **SECTION 3**

### **REVOLUTIONS IN ENGLAND**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. The Bourgeois Revolution in England (1640-1660).
2. The Industrial Revolution (1760-1850).

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Speak about England and Scotland at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
2. What were the reasons for the Bourgeois Revolution in England?
3. Expand on the role of the Puritan movement in the development of the Bourgeois Revolution.
4. Speak about the two parties in the Parliament in 1645.
5. What happened to Scotland under the rule of Oliver Cromwell?
6. Describe the Commonwealth and Protectorate governments.
7. Why was Charles I executed?
8. Which of the anti royal political groups was more progressive than the others? Give your reasons.
9. In which British industry did the Industrial Revolution begin?
10. Explain the origin, nature and phases of the Industrial Revolution. What were the economic and social consequences of the Industrial Revolution?
11. Give the names of most prominent inventors in the period of the Industrial Revolution. What was their contribution to science and technology of the period?
12. What were the leading industries within the period of the Revolution?
13. What are the three trends of the Chartism movement?
14. Speak about the division in the Independent ranks.

#### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (p. 35), 3 (pp. 180-185; 261- 266; 282-283), 4 (pp. 18-20), 5 (pp. 102-123), 7 (pp.121-129), 8 (pp. 78-96; 103-106), 9 (pp. 22-27), 10 (pp.101-125).

#### **D. GLOSSARY**

ARMADA Spanish naval expedition against England fitted out by King Philip II of Spain, in 1588. The English won thanks to excellent

manoeuvring and their fire-ships sent to destroy huge Spanish ships. About half the original fleet returned to Spain.

CAVALIERS Name adopted during the troubles of the Civil War (1642-48) to designate members of the royalist party, adherents of Charles I.

CHARTISM Radical democratic movement, mainly of the working classes, which flourished between the 1830's and '50s. It derived its name from the People's Charter, a program drafted by William Lovett in 1838.

DIGGERS Faction of Puritanism, which was active in 1649-50. The Diggers also called themselves True Levellers.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION The introduction of machinery to make goods and to improve farming efficiency, and the migration from rural to urban life for most.

IRONSIDES Nickname of Oliver Cromwell's special troopers, so called because of their solidity and firmness in battle.

LEVELLERS Democratic party in the English Revolution which proved a powerful force during 1647-49. The Levellers found support among the New Model Army, but their mutinies were suppressed by Oliver Cromwell in 1649 and the movement lost its importance.

LONG PARLIAMENT Name commonly used for the parliament of 1640-60, which carried through the English Revolution. Its royalist members withdrew in 1643 and in 1648 the army expelled 121 members more. The surviving group of 60 members became known as the Rump. It was dissolved by Cromwell in 1653. The Long Parliament reassembled in 1659 and began the negotiations which led to the Restoration.

LORD PROTECTOR The title given to Oliver Cromwell, and his son Richard after Oliver's death, as Head of State after Charles I was executed and until Charles II was chosen to be Head of State.

LUDDITES A group named after Ned Ludd; artisans who rioted and destroyed machinery in 1811-16. The term is used more loosely and even today to describe those who are against progress.

QUAKERS Popular name for the Society of Friends, a Christian group that arose as the extreme left wing of the 17-th century Puritan movement.

RESTORATION Return to monarchical rule in Britain in 1660. The restoration of the monarchy followed the republican Commonwealth of 1640-60.

ROUNDHEADS In the reign of Charles I and later, the Roundheads was a nickname of the Puritans or members of the Parliamentary party



who wore their hair cut short. Originally it was used derisively by the Royalists who wore ringlets.

RUMP Phase of the Long Parliament in the period of the English Commonwealth.

## **SECTION 4**

### **THE STATE SYSTEM OF THE UK**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. British Constitution.
2. The Organs of Government.
3. The Monarchy.
4. The Parliament.
  - a) The House of Lords.
  - b) The House of Commons.
5. The Cabinet.
6. The Judicial Branch.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Is there a written constitution in Great Britain? What does the term “English Constitution” mean?
2. Name some important documents which contain the leading principles of government.
3. What did Magna Carta set limits on?
4. What does Habeas Corpus Act guarantee?
5. What did the Bill of Rights confirm?
6. Which organ is most powerful in the government system of the UK and why?
7. Decode the phrase “The Queen reigns but does not rule”.
8. Enumerate the members of the Royal Family. Say what you know about each of them.
9. What royal prerogatives do you know? Comment on them.
10. Indicate the main stages for a law to become an Act of Parliament and comment on the types of Bills, which may be introduced in Parliament.
11. Why is the British Parliament called the Mother of Parliaments?
12. What is ‘a reading’ in Parliament?
13. Who does the real power in the UK belong to?
14. Who are called ‘frontbenchers’ and ‘backbenchers’?
15. What do you think about the Shadow Cabinet functions? Do you find any efficacy in its activity?
16. Speak about recent changes in the composition of the House of Lords.

17. What categories of British citizens are prohibited to take part in the election to the House of Commons?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 43-44; 48-49; 108-111; 147-148; 173-174; 192; 193), 2 (pp. 72-107), 3 (80-85; 105-106; 200-203; 279-282; 348-361), 4 (pp. 72-80), 8 (pp. 202-219; 227-231), 9 (pp. 71-112), 10 (217-218), 12 (pp. 49-54).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

ABDICATION The term is usually applied to a reigning monarch giving up the throne. Edward II of England was forced to abdicate in 1327, as well as Richard II in 1399. James II gave up the throne in 1688 and fled to France without waiting for a formal deposition. Since 1688 no British king or queen has been able to renounce the crown without the consent of Parliament. The last monarch to abdicate was Edward VIII.

ANOINTING Ceremony of pouring consecrated oil on the monarch's body at his or her coronation. The spoon with which the oil is applied is part of the English royal regalia.

ASSENT, ROYAL Formal consent given by the ruling British monarch to the passage of a bill through Parliament, after which it becomes an Act of Parliament.

BEEFEATER The popular name for the monarch's guard soldiers at the Tower of London.

BILL OF RIGHTS Conditions drawn up by the House of Commons and presented to William of Orange and his wife Mary in 1689 before they ascended the throne as William III and Mary II. The Bill included such clauses as the freedom of parliamentary elections and freedom of speech in parliamentary debates.

BOROUGHS were originally towns that had grown large and important enough to be given their own government, free of control by the county. These days, the name is used for local government purposes only in London, but many towns still proudly describe themselves as Royal Boroughs.

CORONATION The ceremony that takes place at Westminster Abbey when a new British king or queen is crowned. After a religious ceremony, they are given the crown and other items that represent power and wealth, and become officially king or queen.

COUNTIES The oldest divisions of the country in England and Wales. Many of them have 'shire' in their names (e.g. Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Leicestershire). 'Shires' is what the counties were originally called.

DEFENDER OF THE FAITH One of the titles of the British sovereign. It was conferred on Henry VIII in 1521 by Pope Leo X in recognition of the king's treatise against Luther. The title appears on British coins as *Fid. Def.*, a shortened form of the Latin *Fidei Defensor*.

DUKE Highest rank in the British peerage.

HANOVER, HOUSE OF Royal British dynasty of German origin, descended from George Louis, Elector of Hanover, who succeeded to the British crown, as George I, in 1714. The Hanoverian dynasty provided six monarchs: George I (reigned 1714-27), George II (reigned 1727-60), George III (reigned 1760-1820), George IV (reigned 1820-30), William IV (reigned 1830-37) and Victoria (reigned 1837-1901).

HEIR APPARENT Heir whose right to the throne cannot be superseded by the birth of another heir. The current heir apparent to the British crown is Queen Elizabeth's eldest son Charles, the Prince of Wales.

IRON LADY A popular nickname for Margaret Thatcher, used both by her supporters and her opponents.

JUVENILE COURT Special kind of magistrates' court to deal with accused persons under the age of 17, called juvenile delinquents. The court is held in private away from the ordinary court room.

KENSINGTON PALACE Palace in London still lived in by members of the royal family.

LAW LORDS The judicial members of the House of Lords, the highest court of appeal in the UK.

LORD CHANCELLOR Officer of state who is Speaker of the House of Lords, head of the judiciary, custodian of the great seal and chief administrator of the legal system and courts. His full title is the Lord High Chancellor and he is sometimes referred to as the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. He is a cabinet minister and has control of all judicial appointments in the country except those reserved to the prime minister.

LORD LIEUTENANT Representative of the British sovereign in counties.

MAGNA CARTA The Latin term is translated into English as Great Charter. It is the charter of English liberties adopted by King John in 1215 in obedience to the English barons who demanded a solemn grant of liberties by the king. Magna Carta laid down the fundamental principles for the government of the English kingdom. It concerned the freedom of

the church, the rights of land holders, trade and merchants, the reform of the law, and the royal forests.

OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY The Queen's official birthday is celebrated on the second Saturday in June, it does not coincide with her real date of birth, April 21. One of the features of this event is the ceremony of Trooping the Colour: the colours (flags) of one of the five Foot Guards' regiments are trooped before the sovereign on Horse Guards Parade.

PARISHES The smallest units of local government in England.

PARLIAMENT Supreme legislative body of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It consists of the Queen, the Lords and the Commons.

PARLIAMENT, HOUSES OF Seat of the supreme legislature of the United Kingdom, also called Westminster Palace, in the London borough of Westminster.

PEER Member of one of the degrees of nobility: duke, marquis, earl, viscount, or baron.

PRIMOGENITURE Laws of inheritance providing descent of land to the eldest son.

PRIVY COUNCIL Royal advisers, the sovereign's own council, consisting of about 300 persons.

QUEEN'S SPEECH Speech prepared by the government in consultation with the Queen and delivered by her or by her deputy at the opening or closing of parliamentary session.

SECRETARY OF STATE In Britain it is the head of a major government department, a member of the Cabinet.

SHERIFF Commonly known as a High Sheriff, he is the chief officer of the Crown in counties and certain cities with legal and ceremonial duties.

SHIRES An area under the control of a Governor, later made up of a number of hundreds and later redefined as a county.

THE DAIL EIREANN It is "Irish Parliament" in the Irish language.

THE PRINCE OF WALES is today the formal title given to the English monarch's eldest son.

TUDOR, HOUSE OF English Royal Dynasty that began in 1485 and ended in 1603.

WINDSOR, HOUSE OF Royal dynasty of the United Kingdom, which succeeded the House of Hanover on the death of its last representative, Queen Victoria, in 1901. The dynasty has included Edward VII (reigned 1901-10), George V (1910-36), Edward VIII (1936), George VI (1936-52) and the present queen, Elizabeth II, who was crowned in 1953.

WOOLSACK Name given to the seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords. It is a large square bag of wool covered with red cloth. It was first used in the reign of Edward III to be a constant reminder to the Lords of the principal source of English wealth.

## **SECTION 5**

### **THE STATE SYSTEM OF THE UK**

#### **A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Political Parties.
2. Youth Organisations of the UK.
3. The British Mass Media.
  - a) The British Press.
  - b) Radio and Television.
4. The British Flags and Coat of Arms.
  - a) The Union Flag.
  - b) The Welsh Flag.
  - c) The Royal Standard.
  - d) The Coat of Arms.

#### **B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. When did the party system emerge in Britain?
2. Give the names of UK Prime Ministers heading the Conservative Party. Say what you know about them.
3. Which of the UK political parties is the youngest? What do you know about this party?
4. Who are the leaders of the most influential political parties in the UK now?
5. How can you account for the decline of the Liberal Party?
6. What are the functions of party whips?
7. Give an account of the British national newspapers referring to the main quality, popular and provincial (local) papers.
8. Account for the most popular weekly and monthly periodicals and their classification.
9. Name two characteristic features of British newspapers.
10. What is meant by a national newspaper?
11. What feature of many foreign newspapers is lacking in British newspapers?
12. What is special about the contents of Sunday papers?
13. Why have many newspapers had to close down in recent years?
14. How do you explain the importance and large circulation of national newspapers in Britain?
15. For what is English TV often blamed?

16. What is the state flag of the UK sometimes called? What do the crosses on the flag stand for?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 20-21; 50-52; 95-96; 112-113; 139-140; 150; 168; 175; 177), 2 (pp. 108-129), 3 (pp. 247-248), 4 (pp. 80-85), 7 (pp. 161-162), 8 (pp. 220-227; 280-286), 9 (pp. 73-75; 151-161), 10 (pp. 218-227).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

FIANNA FAIL A major political party in Eire. Its name is the Irish for “Soldiers of Destiny”.

“GOD, SAVE THE QUEEN” Name and the leading words of the British national anthem.

LABOUR PARTY Socialist political party that has strong links with the trade unions.

LIBERAL PARTY Political party that emerged in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the successor to the Whigs. In 1988 the Liberal Party merged with the Social Democratic Party to form what is now called the Liberal Democratic Party.

LION AND UNICORN Supporting animals of the royal coat-of-arms of Great Britain, dating from the union of Scotland (represented by the unicorn) with England (represented by the lion) in 1603.

PLAID CYMPU A major Nationalist political party of Wales.

RED DRAGON The most important national symbol of Wales and the name of the Welsh flag.

TORY The original Tories were Irish guerrillas who warred on the English. The Tories were traditionally the party of landlords and the clergy and were opposed to the Whigs, whose support was in the trading classes. The Tory Party was a forerunner of the present Conservative Party and the name is still used colloquially to denote the Conservatives.

UNION JACK The national flag of the United Kingdom is commonly known as the Union Jack and also as the Union Flag. It has been used as the British flag since 1603, when Scotland and England were united.

WHIG PARTY Predecessor of the present Liberal Party. The name, first applied to Scottish religious rebels, came into use in England for the supporters of the 1688 revolution. In 1832 the name Liberal replaced that of Whig.



**SECTION 6**  
**THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN GREAT BRITAIN.**  
**UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES**

**A. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. School Education.
2. Further Education.
3. University Education.

**B. STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Give an account of the structure of secondary education, referring to the main types of school of this category (grammar, modern, technical, special).
2. What are the two important school certificates called and when are the examinations for them taken?
3. What are the three main aspects of a public school education?
4. How many subjects is it necessary to pass in order to gain the GCE (CSE)? Explain the difference between these terms.
5. Are all children educated according to the same programme or different programmes?
6. Comment on the meaning of the terms “public” and “private” in the UK school system.
7. What was the original purpose of many of the old public schools?
8. At what period was there a great revival in the fortunes of the public schools? What were the reasons for this revival?
9. What do you think is the difference between independent and private schools?
10. What are the main problems confronting the British education now?
11. What are the changes, if any, that have been made in the public school curriculum in recent years?
12. Comment on the public schools motto: “Learn to obey and to rule”.
13. Why are polytechnics sometimes called the “comprehensives” of further education?
14. What does the term “careers education” mean?
15. What is the basis for entry to universities?
16. Give a brief account of the organization of further and higher education, describing the main three groups of universities?

17. Can you name six universities that were founded before 1900, and six founded since 1950?

18. What are the most prestigious universities in England, Scotland and Wales?

19. Comment on the terms “tutor”, “form teacher”, “housepoint”.

20. What does the term “college” mean in the UK system of education?

21. What is the essential difference between teaching methods at Oxbridge and other British universities?

22. What has happened in university education since the end of the Second World War?

23. Which colleges at Oxford and Cambridge have similar names?

### **C. REFERENCE MATERIAL**

1 (pp. 45-48; 109-110; 148-149; 173-174; 192-193), 2 (pp. 130-165), 3 (pp. 92-94; 121-122), 4 (pp.162-174), 8 (pp. 288-300), 9 (pp. 130-140), 12 (pp. 56-57).

### **D. GLOSSARY**

DONS are most often senior members of staff at Oxford or Cambridge colleges but now often applied to most university teachers.

HARROW SCHOOL One of the foremost public schools of England, situated in Harrow, Greater London, and one of the highest in prestige. It was founded by John Lyon in 1571. Among its former students are Sheridan, Byron, Galsworthy, Trollope and Winston Churchill.

“KEY STAGE” TESTS are formal examinations given to all schoolchildren in the UK at certain key stages of their education.

OXBRIDGE A term used to denote the two top universities in England, from – a combination of their names, Oxford and Cambridge.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS Private, fee-paying schools, despite the name.

REDBRICK UNIVERSITY One of a group of major British universities founded in Victorian times in major industrial cities, usually with a Gothic style central building built in red bricks.

SENATE Governing body in some universities, for example, Cambridge University.

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